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ABSTRACT

This book describes the teaching experiences of Helen Hussman Morris, who taught in a one-room school in rural Oklahoma during the early 1930s. Her story calls attention to some of the educational issues that were present in the 1930s and that are still being addressed at the local, state, and national levels, including curriculum, facilities, teaching materials, discipline, teacher training, and community involvement. In addition, the book illustrates what it was like to live in western Oklahoma in the early part of the 20th century. A brief history of public education in Oklahoma discusses the settlement of Oklahoma and the establishment of public schools and examines issues of transportation, facilities, instruction, teacher preparation, and finances. The book traces the life story of Helen Morris, a young farm girl, who with minimal preparation became a teacher in a primitive one-room school. With considerable support from her father, whose farm was nearby, she entered a new environment and capably met the various challenges of living in rural Oklahoma. Through her experiences, she matured as a teacher and as a woman, and worked toward a college degree. After their marriage, she and her husband taught a consolidated two-room school. Motherhood ended Helen's teaching career. Contains 40 references, an index, and photographs. (LP)

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